

South Dakota National Guard
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Guard prepares to respond to fall blizzard

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Leaders of the South Dakota National Guard began preparing personnel and equipment last night, Thursday, Nov. 6, to support the state's emergency response in the wake of the fall blizzard that began two days ago in western South Dakota.

During a conference call yesterday evening, senior Army and Air National Guard leaders across the state placed into action a plan to prepare Soldiers and Airmen to respond to five possible missions that the Guard may receive from the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management over the next few days. Guard officials are preparing to respond to search and rescue missions, snow removal support, power restoration support, power generator equipment requests, and aerial observation missions using National Guard's rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen will be there when called," said Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, the adjutant general. "Our Guard members are getting ready to hit the road and support our state's emergency management agencies, save lives, and ease suffering."

National Guard support is based on the needs and requirements vetted through the Office of Emergency Management, which is the lead agency for all state emergency response.

The Guard has numerous pieces of snow removal equipment that include snow blowers, loaders, bulldozers, road graders and dump trucks are located throughout the state to support the state's emergency response.

"Our greatest resource is our people and their ability to respond," said Doohen. "Our team is standing by."

The South Dakota National Guard has more than 4,000 Soldiers and Airmen available to respond to state emergencies, natural disasters and homeland defense.

- 30 -

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